

CBP = Community Biogas Plants
 IBP = Institutional Biogas Plants
 KW = Kilo watt, MW = Mega watt
 SPV = Solar Photovoltaic

**Misuse of Indira Awas Yojana Funds
 In Bihar**

337. SHRIMATI SUBHAWATI DEVI : Will the Minister of RURAL AREAS AND EMPLOYMENT be pleased to state :

(a) the quantum of funds disbursed under Indira Awas Yojana in Bihar during 1996-97;

(b) whether the Government are aware that not a single house has been constructed till date in some of the districts of the State under Indira Awas Yojana;

(c) if so, the details thereof and the reasons therefor; and

(d) the action taken or proposed to be taken against the persons held responsible for misuse of the IAY funds in the State ?

THE MINISTER OF RURAL AREAS AND EMPLOYMENT (SHRI KINJARAPPU YERRANNAIDU) : (a) During 1996-97, Rs. 157.38 crore were released to Bihar as Central Assistance under Indira Awas Yojana.

(b) to (d) Information is being collected and will be laid on the Table of the House.

Committee Constitution of SEBs

338. SHRI RAM KRIPAL YADAV : Will the Minister of POWER be pleased to state :

(a) whether any Committee has been Constituted for making State Electricity Boards more effective and for removing prevailing corruption therein;

(b) if not, the reasons therefor;

(c) whether the Government propose to hand over the SEBs to Private Sector; and

(d) if so, the details thereof and the reasons therefor ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY AND MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF POWER (SHRI YOGINDER K. ALAGH) : (a) & (b) No, Sir. However, the Government has

finalised a Common Minimum National Action Plan for Power (CMNPP) on the basis of a consensus reached at the Chief Ministers, Conferences held on 16.10.1996 and 3.12.1996. The Action Plan provides for autonomy to the State Electricity Boards, improvement in the management practices and of physical parameters of SEBs. The Action Plan has already been circulated to all the State/UT Governments for implementation of the proposals contained therein.

(c) No, Sir.

(d) Does not arise.

[English]

Upgradation of LPT to HPT in Karnataka

339. SHRI RAJA RANGAPPA NAIK : Will the Minister of INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government are considering for upgradation of Raichur Doordarshan Kendra in Karnataka from LPT to HPT; and

(b) if so, the time by which it is likely to be accorded approval and implemented ?

THE MINISTER OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING (SHRI S. JAIPAL REDDY) : (a) and (b) A High Power TV Transmitter (HPT) is envisaged to be set up in replacement of the existing Low Power TV Transmitter (LPT) at Raichur in Karnataka, subject to approval of the scheme by the competent authority, availability of resources and inter-se-priorities. The normal lead time in the implementation of a project of this magnitude is about 2-3 years, from the date of start of civil works at the site.

Satellite Communications Sector to Private Sector

340. KUMARI SUSHILA TIRIYA : Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government have decided to open up the Satellite Communication Sector to private sector as well as privatise INSAT; and

(b) if so, the details thereof ?

THE MINISTER OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI BENI PRASAD VARMA) : (a) and (b) Satellite communications for Closed Users Groups is being provided by Indian registered companies leasing INSAT capacity. INSAT is a

Government owned satellite system and the transponder on INSAT is being used by both Government and Private users.

Licences are being given by DOT to the Indian registered companies for providing "64 Kbps Domestic Data Network Closed Users Group Service by using VSATs (Very Small Aperture Terminals)" over the INSAT satellite system. So far thirteen (13) licenses have already been awarded to various companies from 3.8.94 onwards. Nine (9) companies have started the service.

Poverty Alleviation Programme in Rajasthan

341. COL. SONA RAM CHOUDHARY : Will the Minister of RURAL AREAS AND EMPLOYMENT be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government are aware that about 39.28% rural people of Western Rajasthan are living below poverty line;

(b) if so, whether the Government propose to formulate some crash programme to improve their living conditions;

(c) whether the Government are contemplating to declare 'Helments' & Dhanis of desert areas a Revenue villages to enable them to reap the benefits of development programmes which are presently restricted to Revenue villages only; and

(d) if not, the reasons therefor ?

THE MINISTER OF RURAL AREAS AND EMPLOYMENT (SHRI KINJARAPPU YERRANNAIDU) : (a) As per estimates of poverty for 1993-94 released by planning Commission, the percentage of rural poor living below poverty in Rajasthan is 26.46.

(b) No proposal for formulating crash programme is under consideration with the Govt.

(c) and (d) The subject matter does not come within the purview of the Central Government.

Fire in Chennai Telephone Exchange

342. SHRI KODIKUNNIL SURESH : Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state :

(a) whether there was a major fire accident in

Chennai Telephone Exchange;

(b) if so, the number of lines affected and the amount of loss suffered thereto;

(c) whether any enquiry in the matter has been made;

(d) if so, the details and causes of the accident; and

(e) the steps taken by the Government to avoid such accidents in future ?

THE MINISTER OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI BENI PRASAD VARMA) : (a) Yes, Sir. On 23-6-97 a major fire took place in Anna Road Telephone Exchange Complex in Chennai.

(b) About 32,357 telephone lines were affected due to this fire. Total loss suffered on account of this fire is estimated to the tune of Rs. 6.5 crores (approx).

(c) Yes, Sir.

(d) Technical and Development Circle Jabalpur is investigating the cause of fire and the enquiry is in final stage.

(e) Standing instructions on the subject have been re-iterated to all the field units for strict compliance to avoid recurrence of such incidents in future.

Delhi Telephone Directory

343. SHRI THOMAS HANSDA : Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Delhi Telephone Directory was last issued at the end of 1994;

(b) if so, how many new telephone connections have been provided to the subscribers in Delhi after the issue of Directory;

(c) whether any arrangements have been made to provide service to the subscribers in the absence of a Telephone Directory;

(d) the time by when the new telephone Directory is proposed to be issued; and

(e) the reasons for the delay ?

THE MINISTER OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI BENI PRASAD VARMA) : (a) Yes, Sir.